Listing of Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the subject application:

1. (currently amended) A method for generating a DICOM compatible file which comprises medical information including ~~quantitative~~ one or more of bone mineral density (BMD) values and quantitative morphometry values and image data, said method comprising the steps of:

performing an image acquisition of at least a portion of a patient to be examined;

generating image data based on the performed acquisition;

generating ~~quantitative data~~ one or more of bone mineral density (BMD) values and quantitative morphometry values based on the performed acquisition; and

constructing a composite file, wherein the image data is provided in an image data field of the composite file and the ~~quantitative data~~ one or more of bone mineral density (BMD) values and quantitative morphometry values is provided in ~~a field~~ one or more fields of the composite file other than the image data field.

2. (original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the acquisition is performed and the image data generated

using a bone densitometer.

3. (canceled)

4. (original) A method as recited in claim 2, wherein the image data comprises an image of a patient's anatomy which was acquired.

5. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the ~~quantitative data~~ composite file additionally comprises quantitative report data.

6. (original) A method as recited in claim 5, wherein the quantitative report data comprises BMD data, T scores and Z scores.

7. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim [[1]] 5, wherein the quantitative report data provided in an image comments field and is in a form of at least one of HTML, XML and Java Script files.

8. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 7, wherein the quantitative report data in the image comments field contains analysis results in computer readable form.

9. (original) A method as recited in claim 8, wherein the computer readable form in JavaScript.

10. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 8, wherein the computer readable form is HTML.

11. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising steps of:

communicating the DICOM compatible file across a network;

receiving the DICOM compatible file at a DICOM compliant station;

extracting the ~~quantitative data~~ one or more of BMD values and quantitative morphometry values from the field of the DICOM compatible file other than the image data field; and

generating a report using the extracted ~~quantitative data~~ one or more of BMD values and quantitative morphometry values.

12. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 11, wherein the extracting step is performed using a software control.

13. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim [[1]] 5, wherein the quantitative report data includes raw

data used to generate a report.

14. (original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the other field of the DICOM file is an Image Comments field.

15. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 7, wherein data in the Image Comments Field contains parameters which control a process of report generation allowing for customization of a report.

16. (canceled)

17. (original) A method as recited in claim 8, wherein the computer readable form is XML.

18. (previously presented) A method of generating a DICOM file including embedded quantitative data, said method comprising:

generating a report image file from quantitative data;

embedding the report image file as an image file portion of the DICOM file; and

embedding the quantitative data, used to create the report image file, in a portion of the DICOM file other than the image file portion.

19. (original) A method as recited in claim 18, wherein the report image file comprises a bitmap image file.

20. (original) A method as recited in claim 18, wherein the quantitative data used to create the report image file comprises raw data.

21. (original) A method as recited in claim 18, wherein the quantitative data used to create the report image file comprises bone mineral density (BMD) data.

22. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 18, wherein the quantitative data is embedded in an Image Comments field of the DICOM file.

23. (previously presented) A computer executable software code stored on a computer readable medium, the code for creating a DICOM compliant file, said code comprising:

code for creating a report, including quantitative data, from acquisition data generated by at least one of an image capture device and another form of data entry;

code for creating a bitmap image file representing the created report;

code for embedding the bitmap image file in an image field of a DICOM compliant file; and

code for embedding the quantitative data in a field of the DICOM compliant file other than the image field.

24. (original) A computer executable software code as recited in claim 23, wherein the quantitative data comprises raw data used to create the report.

25. (original) A computer executable software code as recited in claim 23, wherein the quantitative data comprises bone mineral density (BMD) data.

26. (original) A computer executable software code as recited in claim 23, wherein the other form of data entry includes manual entry.

27. (original) A computer executable software code as recited in claim 23, wherein the other field comprises an Image Comments field of the DICOM file.